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The Garrison Case

A Study in Abuse of Power

By Milton E. Brener

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With the advent of the unexpected through coverage by the national and international press and TV, the realization came to Garrison that he was now facing an audience far larger than that of his earlier career. His audience was international.

Nonetheless, all was quiet for approximately six weeks following the hearing.

THE FIRST public blast against the Central Intelligence Agency came in early May. The C.I.A. and the Federal Bureau of Investigation cooperated in concealing the facts behind the assassination from the Warren Commission and the American public, said Garrison, and he was going to ask for a Senate investigation.

Garrison next brought to light an insidious plot to thwart his investigation. He had been confronted with a similar problem with the judges of the Criminal Court who tried to block his investigation into organized vice, and he would expose this combination of federal agencies as surely as he had the previous efforts of the Judges.

"The plain fact is that our federal intelligence agencies are implacably determined to do whatever is necessary to block any further inquiry into the facts of the assassination."

AT THIS juncture the Warren Commission was not yet suspected of having been members of the conspiracy. They were innocent dupes, according to Garrison.

Then Garrison gave the public a real glimpse of the "truth" behind the assassination:

"The President was killed by a fatal bullet that was fired from the front. There was a cross-fire situation set up which involved at least two pairs of men in the front—apparently two men behind a stone wall and two behind a picket fence, which is a little bit back of the stone wall. The role of the second man in each case was to pick up the actual cartridges taken on the bounce. . ."

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Garrison had thus explained why there were no cartridges found. What about the fact that no spent pellets were discovered that would support such a theory? There was a reason for that, too:

"It appears they used frangible bullets."

ACCORDING to firearms experts, however, the frangible bullets to which Garrison referred are soft, compressed graphite bullets used for target practice and are not capable of piercing more than a tin can at a maximum of 50 yards. Garrison's inspiration for the frangible bullet theory, however, was unshakeable. It had been based on an anonymous letter, and the statements of firearms experts did not even merit an answer.

One of a Series

TO READERS: These installments comprise excerpts from the book to which we are limited by our serialization rights. Through necessity, the description of events and the characterizations are not as full as those in the complete book.

APPEARING on Station WGLI, Babylon, Long Island, on Sept. 22, Garrison claimed that upon finally reading the Warren Commission Report in November, 1966, he found out that "it was, in effect, a carefully organized concealment of the facts."

"Well, was this done purposely?" asked the interviewer.

Said Garrison:

". . . The objective was to keep the people of this country thinking that they were still living in the best of all possible worlds; that they were not living in a world in which the big business, Texas style, financed the assassination, as it did; in which the right wing—paramilitary right-wing elements which were financed and encouraged in their training and given weapons by the CIA was involved.

Were members of the Dallas Police Department involved?

"Oh yes, it couldn't have been done effectively without it."

ON AN interview on the Mike Wallace "At Large" program, broadcast on a New York radio station:

"The U.S. government is a party to the fraud, has participated, in effect, in the biggest fix in the human race. . . There are elements of the Dallas establishment that are deeply involved and some of the members of the White Russian community are part of it. . . The Minute Men—Minute Men, as individuals, are involved in the assassination. I might add that the central structure, the control down to the anti-Castro Latins who operated the operation, worked at the operational level in Dealey Plaza, from the insanely patriotic oil millionaires sponsoring this, the connecting link, really, the machinery which is making it work are the Minute Men elements of the Dallas police force.

"There were a number of men at Dealey Plaza, including radio communications, use of transistor radios, to tell when the parade was coming, at which point it was turning, the —to signal when the guns were to pick, be picked up, to indicate the coast was clear. . ."

BY NOVEMBER Garrison decided that it was pointless to continue attacking the underlings in the plot:

"Who is responsible for the continuing obstruction of the first honest investigation that this country has had into the assassination? . . . Who appointed the Warren Commission? Who was aware that there was a C.I.A. problem and caused the seven-man Commission. . . to be weighted in advance by the defenders of the C.I.A.? Who controls the C.I.A.? Who controls the F.B.I.? Who controls the Archives where this evidence is locked up for so long that it is unlikely that there is anybody in this room that will be alive when it is released?

"The one man who has profited most from the assassination—your friendly President!

"Lyndon Johnson.

"Now, I don't say that President Johnson is involved IN the assassination. I have no reason to know that he is, but I do think this: I do think the fact

that he has profited from the assassination most, more than any other man, makes it imperative that he see that the evidence is released, so that we can know that he is not involved, rather than assuming."

IN DECEMBER Garrison had discovered new facts about the assassination. One was a photograph of an individual picking an object off the ground as two Dallas policemen stood nearby.

The object is not shown at all in the picture—merely the subject's hand as he reached to the ground. Garrison, however, not only identified the object picked up as a bullet. but as a .45 caliber bullet. Therefore, concluded Garrison, inasmuch as a .45 caliber bullet could not be fired from Oswald's 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano, the federal government "had to know 10 minutes after the assassination that Lee Oswald could not have done it."

Where had the .45 slug been fired from? Garrison showed pictures of manhole covers leading into a drainage system. "The man who killed President Kennedy fired a .45 caliber pistol," said Garrison, "and then fled through the drainage system to another part of the city."

? THE SOURCE of this "knowledge" was a letter from a resident of Van Nuys, Calif. It quoted an unnamed informant as having been solicited in 1961 to use the storm-drain system in an unspecified city as an escape route following a planned assassination of Kennedy.

One of the Dallas officials appearing in the photograph stated publicly that the object being picked up was a fragment of skull. "Of course," said Garrison, "it would be denied that the bullet was a bullet."

IN MID-FEBRUARY, 1968, U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, on a television interview, was asked about the Garrison investigation. He replied that he had "seen nothing new." Garrison's press release followed quickly:

". . . To the men who got control of the American government on November 22, 1963, everything we have developed is old stuff. They knew that the F.B.I. received advance notice of the assassination and did nothing to stop it. They knew that Jack Ruby had been identified as having driven one of the riflemen to the grassy knoll for the assassination. . . ."

There was a final ironic twist. In late February, 1968, Garrison held an interview with a Dutch newsman. He had to speak out in Europe, he said "because it is impossible in America." Said Garrison: "The U.S. press is controlled to such an extent by the C.I.A. that we can no longer say the truth They throttled us."